

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512



January 13, 2003

Mr. Leslie J. Ward
General Manager, Pico Power Project
1601 Civic Center Drive, Suite 202
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mr. Ward:

RE: PICO POWER PROJECT DATA REQUESTS

Pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716, the California Energy Commission requests the information specified in the enclosed second round of data requests. The information requested is necessary to: 1) more fully understand the project, 2) assess whether the facility will be constructed and operated in compliance with applicable regulations, 3) assess whether the project will result in significant environmental impacts, 4) assess whether the facilities will be constructed and operated in a safe, efficient and reliable manner, and 5) assess potential mitigation measures.

These data requests are being made in one area, Soil and Water Resources (#1-5). Because this AFC is being processed under the 6-month expedited review process, we are asking that you supply your responses within 20 days. Accordingly, written responses to the enclosed data requests are due to the Energy Commission staff on or before February 3, 2003, or at such later date as may be mutually agreed upon.

If you are unable to provide the information requested, need additional time, or object to providing the requested information, please send a written notice to the Committee and me within 10 days of receipt of this notice. The notification must contain the reasons for the inability to provide the information or the grounds for any objections (see Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716 (f)).

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed data requests, please call me at (916) 654-4067.

Sincerely,

MATT TRASK
Energy Facility Siting Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: Docket (02-AFC-3)
Proof of Service List (Interested Parties/Agencies)

Technical Area: Soil and Water Resources

Author: Linda D. Bond

BACKGROUND

Because industrial and commercial contamination of groundwater is common to most urban areas, the identification of nearby existing groundwater contamination is needed. In particular, any contamination of the confined aquifer or evidence of vertical conduits (improperly abandoned or fully perforated deep wells) near the proposed project site should be identified. Information regarding existing vertical gradients between the unconfined and confined aquifers is needed to evaluate the potential effect of project groundwater pumping on contaminant transport.

DATA REQUEST

1. Provide a summary description, map and reference documentation of all soil and groundwater contamination in the confined and unconfined aquifers within one half mile of the project site.
2. Provide any available information on improperly abandoned wells or evidence of vertical groundwater migration within one half mile of the project site.
3. Provide any available groundwater level monitoring data for the confined and unconfined aquifers within one half mile of the project site.
4. Provide a calculation of the potential average and maximum vertical gradients that would be produced by groundwater pumping for the project and an estimate of the thickness and the effective hydraulic conductivity of the confining layer between the two aquifer zones.
5. Provide a copy of the following documents referenced in Data Response #55:
 - RWQCB. 2001. A Comprehensive Groundwater Protection Evaluation for South San Francisco Bay Basins, Draft for Stakeholder Review. Prepared by the Groundwater Committee of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region. December 2001.
 - Iwamura, T.I. 1980. Saltwater Intrusion Investigation in the Santa Clara County Baylands Area, California. Santa Clara Valley Water District Report, September, 1980.
 - Iwamura, T.I. 1995. Hydrogeology of the Santa Clara and Coyote Valleys Groundwater Basins, California in E.M. Anderson, D.W., Bruising, A.B., eds., 1995, *Recent Geologic Studies in the San Francisco Bay Area: Pacific Section* S.E.P.M., Vol 76, p. 173-192.
 - Santa Clara Valley Water District. 2001a. Santa Clara Valley Water District, Urban Water Management Plan. Developed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, April 2001.

- Santa Clara Valley Water District. 2001b. Santa Clara Valley Water District Groundwater Management Plan. Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Jose, California. July 2001.
- Santa Clara Valley Water District. 2002. Santa Clara Valley Water District, 2001 Groundwater Conditions. Developed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, July 2001.